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Date February 6, 2004

To Group Art Unit: 3677

Of U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

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From Jason C. Beckstead

Subject Information Disclosure Statement

Our Ref A8617 Your Ref USSN 10/656,160

Pages 4
(including cover sheet)

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In re application of

Docket No: A8617

Henry Jay GROEN, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/656,160

Group Art Unit: 3677

Confirmation No.: 1359

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: September 8, 2003

For: GRAVITY-OPERATED SEPARABLE LINK

Paper Entitled: Information Disclosure Statement
Form PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified)2 pages
1 page

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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not

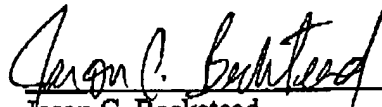
PATENT APPLICATION**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

U.S. Appl. No.: 10/656,160

waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,


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23373

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this Information Disclosure Statement is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office this 6th day of February, 2004.


Thea K. Wagner

MODIFIED PTO/SB/08 A & B (06-03)